

Message Text

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22 10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OES-03 NASA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 ARA-06 /108 W

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R 171617Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3680

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

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E.O. 11862: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, AG, MO, SP, SS

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: LE MONDE ALLEGATIONS RE US MILITARY INTERESTS

REF: ALGIERS 3342 (DTG 140830Z NOV 75)

1. THE FURTHER ALLEGATIONS REGARDING SUPPOSED U.S. MILITARY INTERESTS IN SPANISH OVERSEAS TERRITORY CONTAINED IN NOV 12 LE MONDE SEEM TO US TO BE ESSENTIALLY A FISHING EXPEDITION.

2. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THE WORKING LEVEL HAD ALSO INFORMALLY DRAWN THIS ARTICLE TO OUR ATTENTION, WITH A COMMENT THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE AVERSE TO A U.S. DENIAL. WE RESPONDED THAT THESE PARTICULAR CHARGES, INVOLVING SPANISH FACILITIES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIGHT MORE APPROPRIATELY BE COMMENTED ON BY SPANISH AUTHORITIES,

IF ANY PUBLIC COMMENT WAS TO BE MADE.

3. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS MAY BE OF INTEREST TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS:

(A) THE NASA TRACKING STATION AT MASPALOMAS HAS BEEN CLOSED. THE FACILITY IS BEING ADMINISTERED BY THE SPANISH GOVT, BUT IS AT THIS MOMENT NOT IN OPERATION.

(B) WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY SPANISH ANTI-MISSILE RADAR SYSTEMS

OR OCEAN SONARS AT PALMAS. AS POINTED OUT IN STATE 260897, DOD HAS CONFIRMED THAT THERE ARE NO US MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE CANARIES.

(C) THERE HAS BEEN NO DISCUSSION IN THE US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE USE OF FACILITIES IN THE CANARIES OR ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL SPAIN. (THIS IS A CANARD THAT HAS ALSO APPEARED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER IN CIRITICAL SECTORS OF THE SPANISH PRESS.)

(D) THERE ARE NO MILITARY LINKAGES BETWEEN SPANISH OVERSEAS RADAR AND CONTROL SYSTEMS AND US FACILITIES AT ROTA. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ASCERTAIN EXACTLY TO WHAT EXTENT THE SPANISH PERSONNEL AT ANY SUCH FACILITIES ARE US-TRAINED.

(E) THE SUBMARINE CABLE LINKING IBERIA TO SOUTH AFRICA AND TO BRAZIL IS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE A COMMERCIAL CABLE SUBJECT TO ALL KINDS OF USAGE.

STABLER

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